



AMES LABORATORY

October 25, 2006

Mr. Larry Elliott
Director, Office of Compensation Analysis and Support
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
4676 Columbia Parkway, MS C-46
Cincinnati, OH 45226

Dear Mr. Elliott:

Subject: Special Exposure Cohort Petition

I am writing in support of a new petition to designate a class of employees of Iowa State University and Ames Laboratory to be included in the Special Exposure Cohort under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000. The period of activities covered by this petition is January 1, 1955 through December 31, 1970. The newly designated class of employees includes maintenance and facilities services workers who worked on renovation and maintenance of facilities utilized for materials production processes during the Manhattan Project and subsequently the Ames Laboratory.

The work at Ames was performed on systems utilized as part of one of the earliest environments where nuclear materials were processed, with controls that, although normal at that time, would be deemed unsuitable by today's standards. Potentially or likely high dose exposure to various radiological hazards, including thorium dust, could have resulted from the contamination in the exhaust duct work systems. Very limited monitoring and exposure data are available for maintenance and facilities services workers during the time period involved. The available monitoring data is limited to external exposures and there are significant uncertainties regarding the exposures from inhalation of radioactive materials. It is likely that radiation exposure doses during this period could have endangered the health of members of this class of employees and it is not feasible to estimate exposures with reasonable accuracy.

Ames Laboratory supports the petition filed by Dr. Laurence J. Fuortes, M.D., University of Iowa College of Public Health and several former employees. Ames Laboratory safety, maintenance and occupational medicine specialists are willing to provide additional assistance and historical information to support efforts associated with this SEC petition. I appreciate your efforts to assist our former employees through the SEC petition process.

Sincerely,

T. J. Barton
Director, Ames Laboratory

Cc: Dr. Laurence J. Fuortes